

Eagles 4-1 in N.Z.



1990 EAGLES tour New Zealand: (front row) Pat Standley, Chris Harju, Barb Fugate, Jill Ray, Kathy Flores, Cassie Law, Patty Jervey, Joan Morrissey. (Middle row) Claire Godwin, Jennifer Hertz, Morgan Whitehead, Candi Orsini, Karen Ryan, Vicki Middaugh, Darleen Connors, Julie Gray, Jane Tierney, manager. (Back row) Sandy Meredith, Jan Rutkowski, Juli Liebler, Kath Edsall, Tam Breckinridge, Mary Sullivan, S.S. Shaw.



The Women's Eagle Squad traveled "down under" August 23 - September 2 to participate in the 1990 New Zealand Rugby Festival, held in Christchurch, New Zealand.

As a first time event, organized by Mr. Lawrence O'Reilly of New Zealand, it spanned a two week period. The first week consisted of a tournament playoff schedule, with several New Zealand provincial, university and even an international team (Japan) involved.

The U.S. squad arrived the second week for international competition with the New Zealand XV, Netherlands, and Soviet Union, plus Canterbury and the Auckland provincial side. The festival structure was not designed to determine a first place finisher. Instead, the event culminated in a Saturday afternoon New Zealand XV vs. the World XV, a squad picked to facilitate representation of all international sides.

After a Maori ceremonial greeting, the Eagles faced Canterbury as their first opponent. Working their way through jet lag and a mucky, mud covered field, the U.S. scored off third phase ball early in the match. With a scrumdown near the U.S. offensive twenty-two, Eagle scrum-captain Kathy Flores executed a #8 pick-up, then fed flanker Morgan Whitehead. In loose play, scrumhalf Barb Fugate recovered the ball out to the backs. As the outside drew the defense, fullback Mary Sullivan gathered the ball to run in for a 4-0 U.S. lead. The conversion missed.

The Eagles demonstrated good use of support, their second score of the half again coming off third phase. Having advanced into Canterbury territory, the ball was spun to the American line. As action switched fields, Flores helped retain U.S. possession and this time found flanker Claire Godwin ready to break fifteen yards to a try. The try remained unconverted.

An unsuccessful penalty kick attempt by Canterbury just prior to the whistle left the Eagles with a 8-0 advantage at the half.

Morgan Whitehead closed out the scoring for the U.S. and match with a five meter push over try eleven minutes into the second period. Final score, U.S.A. 12 - Canterbury 0.

In a surprise match, one not originally scheduled to be played, the U.S. took on the Auckland provincial side the following day. In the care of the Eagle backline, the ball found touch deep in Auckland territory, setting up the game's only score. Auckland was unable to control the lineout and instead was called for two successive penalties within the five meter. In second phase, Eagle tighthead prop Karen Ryan pounced on the loose ball for a try. Flyhalf and back captain Chris Harju's conversion gave the Americans their second win, 6-0.

In a Tuesday night game and the first test match of their tour, the Eagles soared over the Flying Dutchies of the Netherlands 38-0. Jill Ray, Barb Fugate and Patty Jervey each scored in the opening period, giving the red, white and blue a 12-0 cushion.

The U.S. scrum continued to dominate, giving consistent ball to the backs throughout the test. To show their gratitude, the backline combined to touch the ball down six more times for a total of nine tries, plus a Pat Standley conversion. Aided by Joan Morrissey's effective running at inside center, Jill Ray contributed her second try, while fullback Mary Sullivan and wing Sandy Meredith scored one each. Constantly fed by her teammates, Patty Jervey put on an entertaining if not awesome running display and registered a personal total of four on the night, (plus one which was called back after she stepped over an ill-marked end line).

On Thursday, the Eagles faced their fourth opponent in as many days of competition- the New Zealand XV, the Kiwi national side. Viewed by many as "the match of the festival," a large crowd was drawn to witness the contest. The Kiwis proved to have a formidable pack, making substantial ball

possession available to the ruggers in black. Superb U.S. defensive efforts as New Zealand attempted to cut through the centers and around the outside corners kept the home team off the scoreboard. Offensively, the U.S. showed glimmers of potential domination. However, any escalation in Eagle momentum seemed to be cut back by the whistle, the referee having found fault with the U.S. style of play, especially in the loose.

Midway through the first half, New Zealand attempted a penalty kick for goal. Unfortunately, while the kick missed its target, lack of communication led to the failure of proper Eagle coverage. New Zealand's halfback Anna Richards, slashed in at speed, kamikaze style, to surprise the defense with a touch on the loose ball for an awarded try. Chris Ross converted for a 6-0 lead.

Incited, the U.S. fought back, only to come up empty handed as a penalty kick attempt fell short. New Zealand then reversed its field position to threaten after a downfield kick took a long, Kiwi bounce. The Eagles recovered and again stood their ground through an outstanding effort, finally beating off the attack by black.

Late in the period, Eagle flyhalf Chris Harju cut the lead to three, hitting on a 17 yard attempt near center. The half ended New Zealand 6 - USA 3.

The final forty minutes were played out in similar fashion, the Eagle efforts again daunted by a constant whistle. Having failed to tie with another penalty kick attempt, the Eagles also suffered the loss of second row Tam Breckinridge. A dominating force in lineout play and defensive coverage throughout the festival, the U.S. lock left with an ankle injury from lineout play late in the match, replaced by Kath Edsall.

New Zealand closed the scorebooks late in the match as Ross finally found her target on a thirty-five yard attempt at center. In a series of late action penalties, she had first missed two previous kicks for goal.

A disappointed U.S. squad left the field suffering their first loss, 9-3, but with much incentive to "Remember New Zealand" as they prepare for the First World Cup to be held in the spring of 1991.

In their final test match of the tour, the Eagles squared off Friday night against the Soviet team in Rugby Park. A psychological comeback from their recent loss was more challenging than the distinct height advantage enjoyed by the USSR. The Americans however, stood up to the test.

Receiving good possession from forward play, the backline put on another offensive display. The Eagles capitalized on second phase ball, as Mary Sullivan crashed through twenty minutes in to put the U.S.A. ahead. Three minutes later, center Candi Orsini maneuvered the ball upfield. As play broke down into loose scrummaging, hooker Bubba Connors recovered

possession for the U.S. and found Jervey on the wing ready to storm across the tryline for an 8-0 advantage.

With ten minutes remaining, Orsini again took the ball in first phase and keeping possession, the outside center dodged her way inside for a near center score and fifth Eagle career try. Chris Harju converted to give the Americans fourteen unanswered points at half.

Mary Sullivan scored her second of the night and fourth of the tour, the ball emerging from lineout play, just minutes in to the last period. Turning the game into romp proportions, Eagle #8 Jan Rutkowski scored, emphasizing the efforts of the scrum, on a five meter push over try with ten minutes elapsed. Stymied by the excellent support provided by the looping U.S. backs, the Soviets were unable to stop Jervey as she dashed in for another four points, Harju converting for a 26-0 difference.

The scoring barrage finally ended as wing Sandy Meredith tossed the ball in for a quick U.S. lineout. Jan Rutkowski snagged the ball and took off downfield for twenty-five yards, stopped inches short of a try by three defenders. Following the ensuing scrumdown, Jervey registered her third try against the Soviets, and seventh of the tour. Final score: U.S.A. 32 - Soviets 0.

The New Zealand vs. World XV match, played in Lancaster Park, proved to be a closer contest than some expected. Although the World team enjoyed a backline predominantly comprised of U.S.A. players, the scrum was a conglomeration of many sides, some of which had difficulty communicating in English. Both sides were allowed open substitution throughout the match.

Nine members of the U.S.A. Eagles were named to the World XV side. They were Kathy Flores, Chris Harju, Jennifer Hertz, Patty Jervey, Joan Morrissey, Candi Orsini, Jan Rutkowski, Pat Standley and Mary Sullivan.

After a scoreless first half, New Zealand jumped out to a 6-0 lead. Leslie Brett scored the try and Debi Chase the conversion.

The World XV pulled within two following a Standley, Morrissey, Orsini connection off a lineout. With the defense anticipating a crash by Sullivan at fullback, the ball was spun to Georgy of Canterbury who touched the ball down.

World then held through fine defensive efforts by the backline. Finally, New Zealand went to work inside, finding the opposing pack less cohesive. Halfback Anna Richards rounded out the scoring late in the game for a 12-4 Kiwi win.

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The following are acknowledged and thanked for their contributions to this event: Tam Breckinridge - coordinating of contributions/programs; Barb Fugate - tour organization; Liz Goldenberg - pins; Elaine Rechiutti - coordination of selection process and also the national selectors and U.S.A. Coaches Kevin O'Brien and Chris Leach; Jane Tierney - tour organization and team manager; Rugby Imports for expediting the availability of uniforms.

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Scoring Summaries

game #1
USA- M.Sullivan(T),C.Godwin(T) (half 8-0)
M.Whitehead(T) final: 12
Canterbury - 0
final: USA 12 - Canterbury 0

game #2
USA - K.Ryan(T) C.Harju(C) (Half 6-0)
Auckland -
final: USA 6 Auckland 0

game #3
USA - J.Ray(t),B.Fugate(T),P.Jervey(T) (half 12-0)
(note: one apparent try by Jervey recalled)
M.Sullivan(T),J.Ray(T)P/Standley(C),P.Jervey(T),PJervey(T)
S.Meredith(T),P.Jervey(T)
final: USA 38 - Netherlands 0

game #4
New Zealand - A.Richards(T)/C.Ross(C),
USA - C.Harju (PK) (half NZ 6 - USA 3)
2nd half
New Zealand - C.Ross(PK)
USA -
final: New Zealand 9 - USA 3

game #5
USA - M.Sullivan(T),P.Jervey(T),C.Orsini(T)/C.Harju(C) (half 14-0)
M.Sullivan(T),J.Rutkowski(T),P.Jervey(T)/C.Harju(C),P.Jervey(T)
Soviets -
final: USA 32 - Soviets 0

World XV vs. New Zealand XV

NZ - Brett(t)/D.Chase(C)Richards(T) D.Chase(C)
W - Georgy(T)
final: NZ 12 - World 4

OVERALL	USA	(record 4-1)	OPPONENTS
	91	Points	9
	20	trys	1
	4	conversions	1
	1	pk	1

SPOTLIGHT



NAME: Barb Fugate
TITLE: National Events Coordinator
BIRTHDATE: April 30, 1958
BIRTHPLACE: Rapid City, SD
RESIDENCE: Minneapolis, MN
EDUCATION: B.A. Philosophy, Religion;
M.A. Psychology & Counseling
OCCUPATION: Bank Operations Systems
YRS. PLAYING RUGBY: 6
TEAMS: Belmont Shore, Rio Grande Surfers
Univ. of Minnesota
POSITION(S): Scrumhalf, wing, outside center
HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED AS A PLAYER? I joined a gym in Long Beach, CA, shortly after I resigned from the Marine Corps - just to stay in shape. My weight trainer at the gym played for Belmont Shore, and invited me to practice.
BEST MEMORY: Playing "Tell All" with the women on the Eagle tour to New Zealand - it was more fun than the rugby.
GOALS ACHIEVED: Playing as the Eagle scrumhalf was definitely the highlight of my playing career to date.
HONORS/AWARDS/TOURS/REP SIDE EXPERIENCE: Rep Side -So. Cal Griffins, PCRFU Grizzlies, USA Eagles; 1987 Grizzly Tour to the ERU, 1989 Grizzly Tour to New Zealand, 1990 USA Eagle Tour to New Zealand.
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: The Eagles' loss to the New Zealand All-Blacks in Christchurch, August '90.
WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TOWARDS YOUR PRESENT DAY INVOLVEMENT? I feel pretty strongly that you have to "put back in" as much as you get out of an organization. I got involved in rugby administration just because I feel responsible to it - if I want to see things happen for women's rugby, I don't want to wait around for somebody else to take care of it...I like to make things happen. I really don't see why every player can't do that, at one level or another.
EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA: Manager, Grizzly Tours - '87 & '89. President, So. Cal Women's R.F.A., Vice-President, So. Cal. RFU (Men's & Women's clubs), National Events Coordinator.
ADMINISTRATIVE GOALS ACHIEVED: ITT's successfully hosted by a women's club
FUTURE GOALS: To continue to rotate ITT's and Club Nationals among bidders from every territory; to increase the venues and opportunities to play for national and territorial players such as New Zealand and Philadelphia; to get the Eagles to the World Cup, and to come home as champions. It will require a huge effort from the administrators, selectors and coaches, and especially from the players; Long Term- to have an established collegiate level national program. I really think our future depends upon it.
MAJOR INFLUENCES: About responsibility - Leslie Jamison. About personal commitment and training - Chris Harju. About being a competitor - Franck Boivert.
AREA IN WHICH YOU FEEL RUGBY HAS IMPROVED THE MOST: I think we have become deeper in top caliber play - meaning the top level of play has not changed much, but more people are playing it now. For example, the National Club Championship has been handed around among three territories in the last four years which is good. I don't know if increased participation in select side

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